



SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
FAX: 208-334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING
IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529
WWW.SDE.IDAHO.GOV

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www.sde.idaho.gov

Media Contacts:

Jeff Church
Chief Communications Officer
(208) 332-6934
jchurch@sde.idaho.gov

Kelly Everitt
Communications Specialist
(208) 332-6818
keveritt@sde.idaho.gov

DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES PROCESS FOR IDAHO SCIENCE STANDARDS REVIEW AND REVISIONS

(BOISE) – Over the past several months the Idaho State Department of Education along with a group of Idaho science educators and stakeholders reviewed and proposed revisions to the Idaho Science Standards as directed by administrative rule, Superintendent Ybarra announced today.

The Idaho Science Standards Committee was invited to the Idaho State Department of Education in May to review and revise the current K-12 Idaho Science Standards, in an effort to best meet the needs of Idaho students. The review of the science standards was conducted this spring by the committee to determine the links between the current Idaho science standards and the National Science Foundation's Frameworks of Science. It was determined by the committee that the old standards lacked depth, rigor, inquiry, problem solving, and hands-on laboratory experiences.

The committee's reviews and revisions will allow Idaho schools to be provided with a guiding document on renewed science standards for adoption and curriculum development per local control. Through this effort, the revised standards are being prepared for submission the Idaho State Board of Education for evaluation, which will then be subject to public review.

"In today's changing culture, every student needs to have a strong foundation in STEM subjects," Scott Smith, Science Coordinator with the Idaho State Department of Education said. "In order to obtain and succeed in virtually any job, students will need this type of education to succeed in the 21st Century."

Additional information is available regarding the work of the Idaho Science Standards Committee, and additional inquiries may be directed to Scott Smith at (208) 332-6952 or by email at ssmith@sde.idaho.gov.

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